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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for processing data for respective pages, comprising:

a data reception unit for receiving ~~at least~~ data of a first format for respective pages;

a data conversion unit for converting the data of the first format into data of a second format;

a page data management unit for managing the data of the first and second formats in first and second page data in association with each other;

a plurality of output processors, each for executing a respective output process for the first page data or for the second page data, independently; and

a control unit for managing whether or not ~~an~~ any of said plurality of output processors which execute an ~~executes a predetermined~~ output process with reference to the first or second page data ~~refer~~ refers to said page data management unit,

wherein said control unit deletes said page data management unit under a condition that storage of the data of the first and second formats in the memory is complete, none of said plurality of output processors refers to said page data management unit, and reference to page data said output processes by said plurality of the output processors ~~[[is]]~~ are complete.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit generates said page data management unit in a memory in response to reception of the data of the first format for respective pages.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said control unit monitors storage states of the data of the first and second formats in a memory, and deletes the first or second page data in accordance with the storage states and a reference state by the plurality of output processors.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein when the an output processor issues an instruction of an ~~the predetermined~~ output process after the first page data is deleted, said control unit controls said data conversion unit to convert the data of the second format into data of an output format suited to an output format of the output of the output processor.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control unit controls said page data management unit to manage the data of the output format using third page data.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein upon completion of use of the data of the output format by the output processor, said control unit controls said page data management unit to delete the third page data.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein when said control unit determines that storage of the data of the first format in the memory is complete, said control unit permits said data conversion unit to start a data conversion operation from the first format to the second format.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control unit monitors completion of the conversion operation of said data conversion unit and a storage state of the data of the second format in the memory, and permits a predetermined process for the data of the second format to execute in accordance with the storage state.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said page data management unit is generated for data of each page received by said data reception unit, and when data including a plurality of pages are received, said page data management unit manages the first and second page data while associating respective pages with each other.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein first format is one of a plurality of data formats including raw data, JBIG data, JPEG data, TIFF data, and TEXT data, and data of the second format has a JBIG data format.

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing method for processing data for respective pages, comprising:

a data reception step of receiving at least data of a first format for respective pages;

a first page data generation step of generating first page data used to manage the data of the first format;

a data conversion step in a data conversion unit for converting the data of the first format into data of a second format;

a second page data generation step of generating second page data used to manage the data of the second format;

a page data management step of managing the data of the first and second formats in first and second page data in association with each other using a page data management unit;

an output process step of executing an output process with one or more of a plurality of output processors, each for executing a respective output process for the first page data or for the second page data, independently; and

a control step of managing whether or not ~~an~~ any of said plurality of output processors ~~which execute an~~ executes a predetermined output process with reference to the first or second page data ~~refer~~ refers to said page data management unit, and

a page data management unit deletion step of deleting the page data management unit under a condition that storage of the data of the first and second formats in the memory is complete, none of said plurality of output processors refers to said page

data management unit, and reference to page data said output processes by said plurality of the output processors [[is]] are complete.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, further comprising a page data management unit generation step of generating the page data management unit in a memory in response to reception of the data of the first format for respective pages.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 or 13, further comprising a first page data delete step of monitoring storage states of the data of the first and second formats in a memory, and deleting the first or second page data in accordance with the storage states and a reference state by the plurality of output processors.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, further comprising a data conversion control step of controlling, when an the output processor issues an instruction of an the ~~predetermined~~ output process after the first page data is deleted, the data conversion unit to convert the data of the second format into data of an output format suited to an output format of the output of the output processor.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising an output format data management step of controlling the page data management unit to manage the data of the output format using third page data.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising a second page data delete step of controlling, when use of the data of the output format by the output processor is complete, the page data management unit to delete the third page data.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the page data management unit is generated for data of each page received by said data reception unit, and when data including a plurality of pages are received, the page data management unit manages the first and second page data while associating respective pages with each other.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the first format is one of a plurality of data formats including raw data, JBIG data, JPEG data, TIFF data, and TEXT data, and data of the second format has a JBIG data format.

21. (Previously Presented) A computer program for making a computer execute a data processing method of claim 12 or 13.

22. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for processing data for respective pages, comprising:

a data reception unit for receiving ~~at least~~ data of a first format for respective pages;

a data conversion unit for converting the data of the first format into data of a second format;

a page data management unit for managing first page data of the first format and second page data of the second format in association with each other;

a plurality of output processors, each for executing ~~[[an]] a respective~~ output process for the first page data or for and the second page data, independently; and

a control unit for managing whether or not any of said plurality of output processors refers to said page data management unit,

wherein said control unit deletes said page data management unit under a condition that none of said plurality of output processors refers to said page data management unit and said output processes ~~process~~ by said plurality of output processors are ~~[[is]]~~ complete.

23. (Currently Amended) A data processing method for processing data for respective pages, comprising:

a data reception step of receiving ~~at least~~ data of a first format for respective pages;

a first page data generation step of generating first page data used to manage the data of the first format;

a data conversion step in a data conversion unit for converting the data of the first format into data of a second format;

a second page data generation step of generating second page data used to manage the data of the second format;

a page data management step of managing the first page data of the first format and the second page data of the second format in association with each other using a page data management unit;

an output process step of executing an output process with one or more of a plurality of output processors, each for executing a respective output process for the first page data or for the second page data, independently executing an output process for the first page data and the second page data using a plurality of output processors;

a control step of managing whether or not any of said plurality of output processors refers to said page data management unit; and

a page data management unit deletion step of deleting the page data management unit under a condition that none of said plurality of output processors refers to said page data management unit and said output processes ~~process~~ by said plurality of output processors are ~~[[is]]~~ complete.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer-executable program embodied on a computer-readable medium for making a computer execute a data processing method of claim 23.